

Council on Aging Board Meeting

April 13, 2005

In Attendance

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tannenholtz, Board members Al Crommett, Helen McLaughlin, Tim Swiss and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager was also present.

1. Chairman's Comments:

The minutes of the March 9, 2005 meeting were reviewed and accepted by the board after a correction was made regarding Friends ---They do not have a Web site.

Paul reported that he had attended a meeting at the Westwood Senior Center at which a Governor's proposal for tax relief for seniors was discussed. The proposal suggested a deferral process which requires some details still being worked out. Paul informed the board of an upcoming meeting at the Worcester Senior Center on May 2 at 10am, which Rep. McGovern is offering to seniors in the area.

2. Director's Comments:

Sharon reported that she has been working diligently with the Town manager to resolve some Transportation program issues. She has collected material for a "manual."

3. Liaison Reports:

Walter Rice's report for the month is available at the office.

Al Crommett reported that he had received from the EOA office a bunch of useful information for board members to consider including a manual. Some discussion ensued with regard to the State legislation authorizing the establishment of COA as the legislation is written municipalities have the option—are not mandated —of establishing a COA.

4. Old Business:

The discussion centered on the town's budgetary problems and how the COA would be managing its operation with reduced staff. The latest stance anticipates eliminating the volunteer coordinator's position hoping that the State formula grant will allow the rest of the staff to be retained as presently functioning. The board expressed concern that some services will have to be curtailed with the budget situation as envisioned now.

5. New Business:

The rest of the meeting was spent with representatives from the Age Center of Worcester—Michael Thibaudeau and Maggie Briggs—in discussing the Nutrition program and the dining site here. Maggie presented a host of statistics which the Age Center has collected over the last 3 years. The data provides a monthly record of the attendance at lunch and the results of a survey of those using the service. The survey attempted to measure "dining satisfaction." Maggie also offered several suggestions for improving the atmosphere. Some optional menu adjustments may be considered for the future. The discussions were frank and open and pleasant—we look forward hopefully to some changes.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.00pm and the board adjourned for lunch at the "Village Café."

*Respectfully submitted,
John Concordia, Secretary*